



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### LAND SERVICES RECOGNIZED FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO MINNESOTA'S SNOWMOBILING COMMUNITY

Crow Wing County Land Services received the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Parks and Trails Division Director's Award for dedication and commitment to the snowmobiling community. The award was presented during the annual Minnesota United Snowmobile Association event which was held this year at Cragun's Resort from February 7<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Crow Wing County was one of the first sponsors of snowmobile trails when the DNR's Grant-In-Aid program started back in the 1970's. "The snowmobiling community is very important to Crow Wing County. Once the snow starts falling you definitely notice an increase in traffic and trail users, and many local businesses and resorts rely on this type of recreation in the winter months", stated Ryan Simonson, Environmental Services Supervisor. More information about snowmobile trails, such as maps and current trail conditions, can be found at <https://www.crowwing.us/1457/Snowmobile-Trails>.

In recent years, Crow Wing County Land Services has recorded easements over snowmobile trails located on isolated County managed lands before offering them for sale to ensure the protection of the trail corridor. Land Services has also increased the level of trail monitoring and outreach to local clubs, to ensure the trails are being properly maintained and signed. In addition, Land Services developed a comprehensive recreation trails plan which involves clear, objective criteria for evaluating trail proposals, as well as a transparent public comment process to ensure all viewpoints are considered.

Crow Wing County Land Services manages 105,000 acres of forest land for timber production and diverse recreational opportunities for multiple users. The sale of timber at public auctions funds the county's management of these lands, while providing revenues to local communities. County forest lands are managed to strict environmental standards established by both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.

#### Land Services Department

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